



Let's Get the Job Done

This week the U.S. House of Representatives voted on and passed [H.R. 5854](#), the FY2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. This bill provides the United States military with the infrastructure necessary to house, train, and equip our warriors. The bill also ensures that our veterans receive the benefits that they have rightly earned for their service to and sacrifices for this country. After an open amendment process in which every member had an opportunity to have his or her voice heard, I enthusiastically joined the majority of my colleagues to support this important funding bill.

Unfortunately, President Obama has threatened to veto H.R. 5854 over issues completely unrelated to supporting our men and women in uniform and their families. To be fair, I believe that the President supports America's heroes and their families, but he is threatening to veto this bill because the U.S. House is moving forward with the House-passed budget that reduces government-wide spending about 2% from the level that the President supports. If he wants to have a budget debate, let's have one. In fact, if he wants to have a real debate, he could encourage Senator Harry Reid to finally pass a budget—a responsibility that Senator Reid has ignored for three years in a row. But, whatever our differences are on the budget as a whole, the President and the House agree on the importance of funding our veterans. In fact, the FY 2013 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill passed out of committee without a single Republican or Democratic objection.

Election years in Washington are sometimes called "the silly season" because political machinations are occasionally prioritized over serious policy. I can promise you that politics will never overtake my policy work with your voting card, and my commitment to you is to work with my Congressional colleagues and the White House to convince them to make that same pledge. Together, we can make a difference, and given the challenges to the American economy today, we must.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

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